



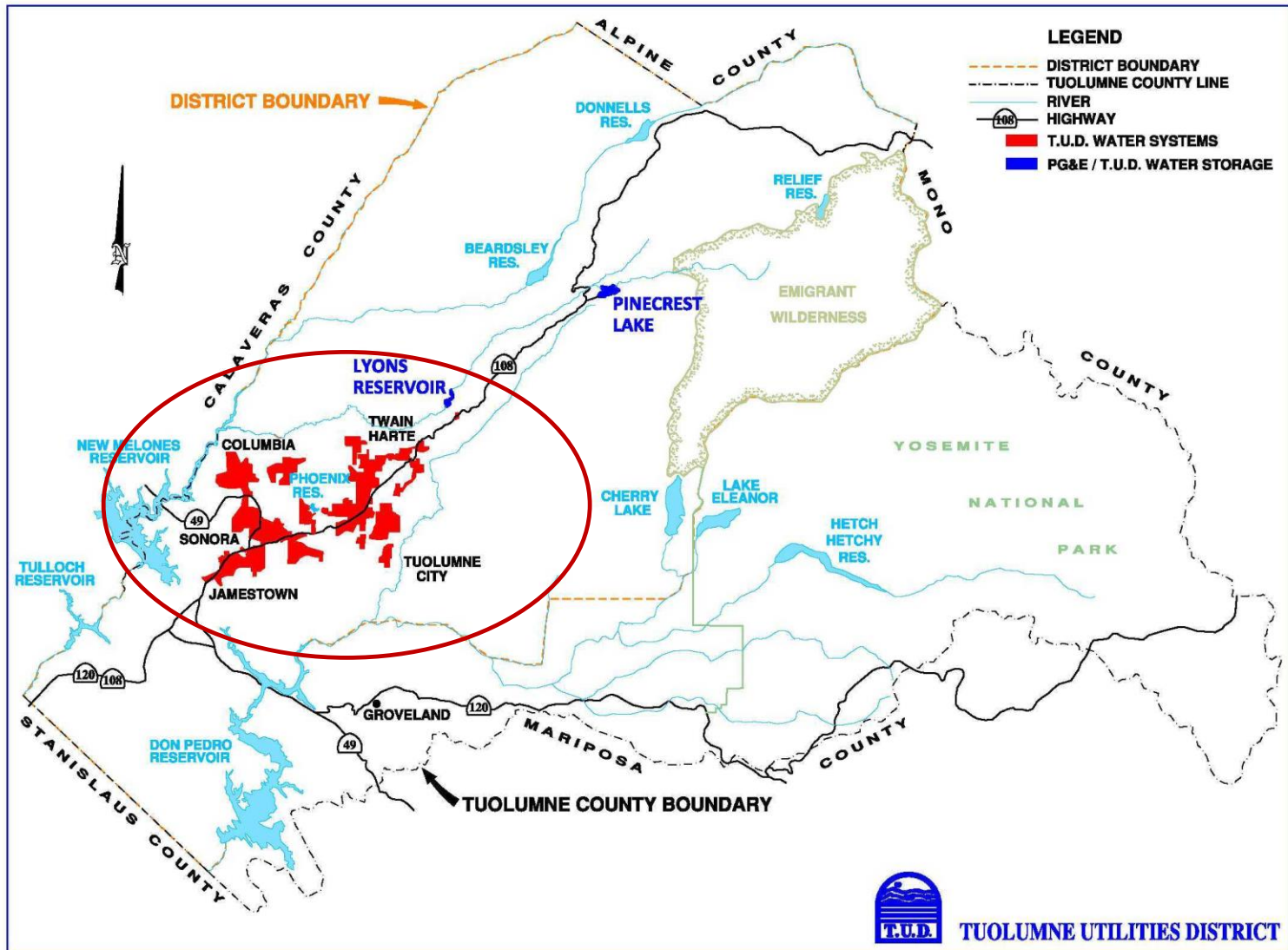
# Tree Mortality Crisis: Communication and Lessons Learned

Presented by: Lisa Westbrook  
Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)

April 14, 2017



# Where is Tuolumne County?



# A Look at Who Lives Here:

Demographic Category	Statistic
County Population	55,365
TUD Water Service Population	30,794
Seniors (60+)	<b>15,540</b>
Median Age	47.3
Average Household Size	2.30
Average Household Income	\$48,493
Median Household Income	\$26,063
Population % at very low and low income	<b>39%</b>
Number of Private Water Systems in County	137

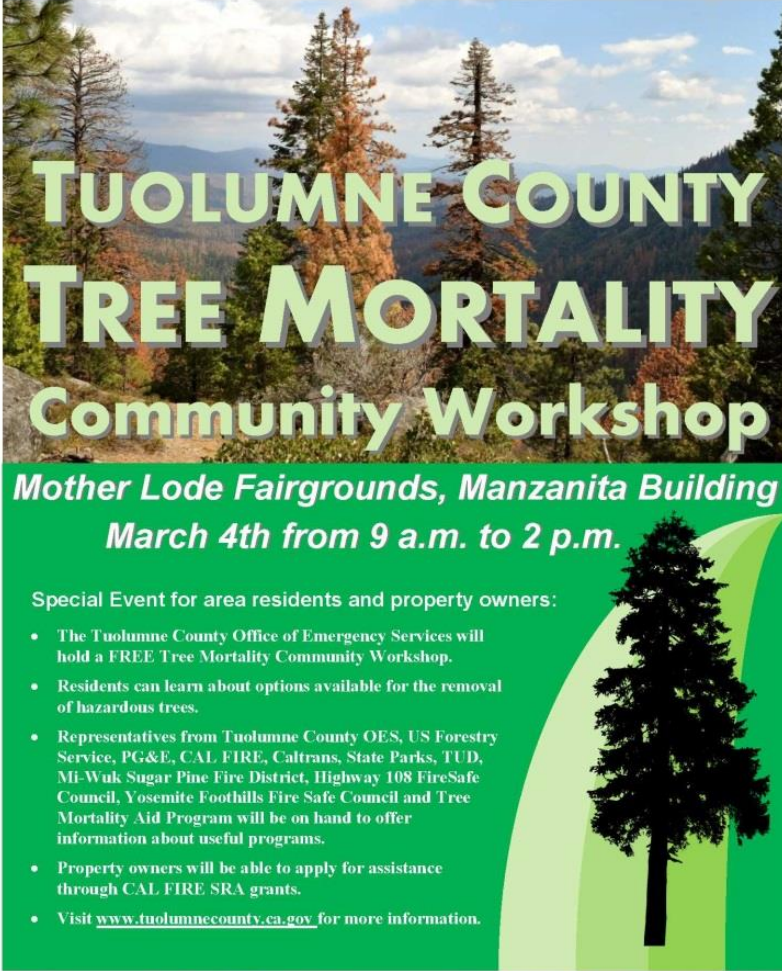
# Communication is Key

- Our agency has a great working relationship with our County Cal OES coordinator and support staff
- The monthly County Tree Mortality Task Force meetings are essential to discuss and coordinate countywide projects with lead agencies: CalOES, CalFIRE, PG&E, the USFS, Cal Trans, and others involved with hazard tree removal projects





# Group Collaboration
















**TUOLUMNE COUNTY  
TREE MORTALITY  
Community Workshop**

***Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Manzanita Building  
March 4th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.***

Special Event for area residents and property owners:

- The Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services will hold a FREE Tree Mortality Community Workshop.
- Residents can learn about options available for the removal of hazardous trees.
- Representatives from Tuolumne County OES, US Forestry Service, PG&E, CAL FIRE, Caltrans, State Parks, TUD, Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire District, Highway 108 FireSafe Council, Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council and Tree Mortality Aid Program will be on hand to offer information about useful programs.
- Property owners will be able to apply for assistance through CAL FIRE SRA grants.
- Visit [www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov) for more information.



# Coordinating Projects



# Lessons Learned – Hire the Right People for the Job

- In house at TUD: We have three people involved with tree removal projects: Administrator, Water Master and an Engineer (mapping and other technical requirements)
- Hire a good Arborist to track and tag each tree
- Hire a good Forester to work with staff to manage the tree removal projects
- Hire a licensed Timber Operator who has experience with the dangerous type of work and can follow Forest Practice Rules



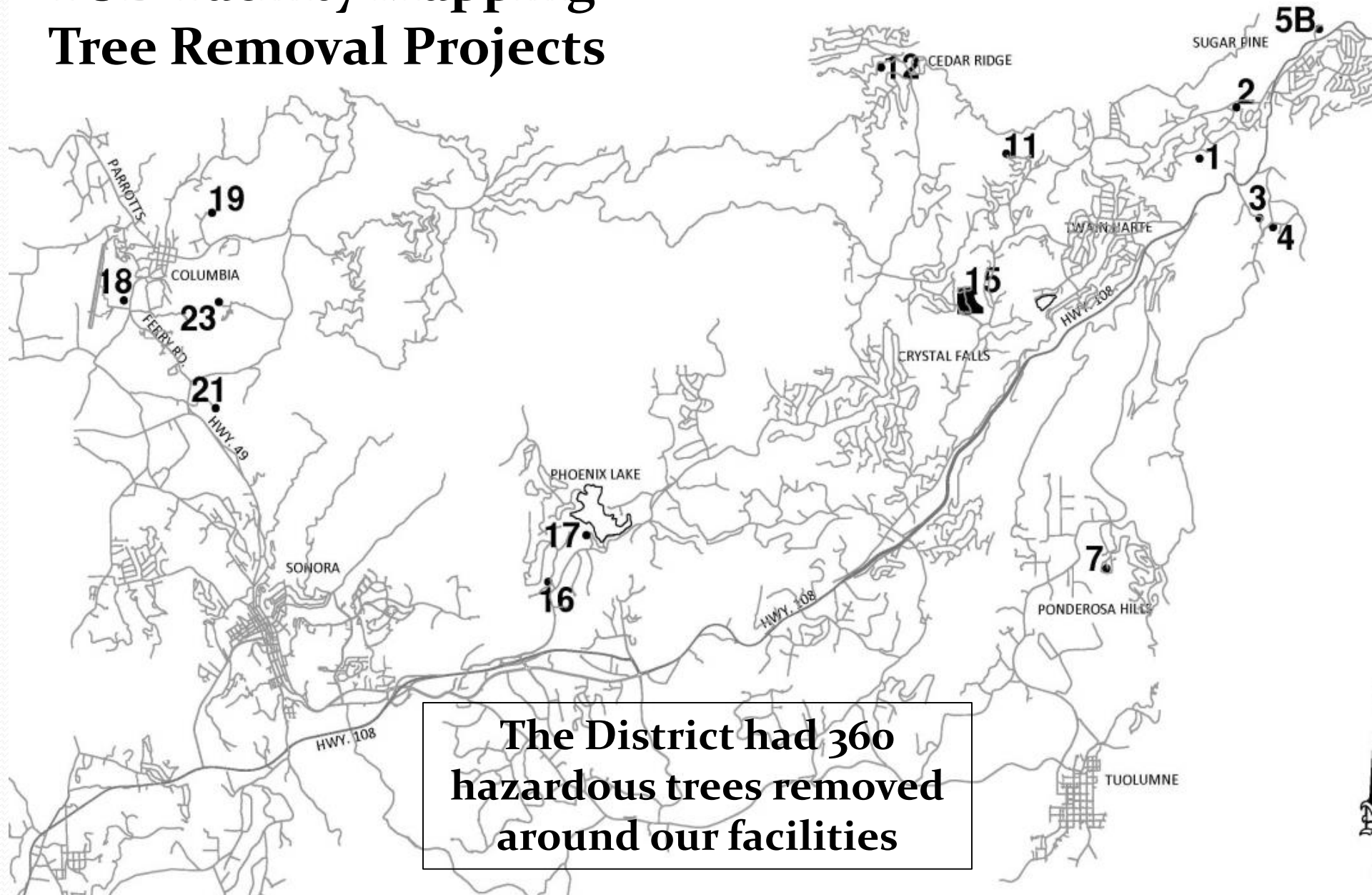


Photo Credit: Cal Fire



# TUD Facility Mapping

## Tree Removal Projects

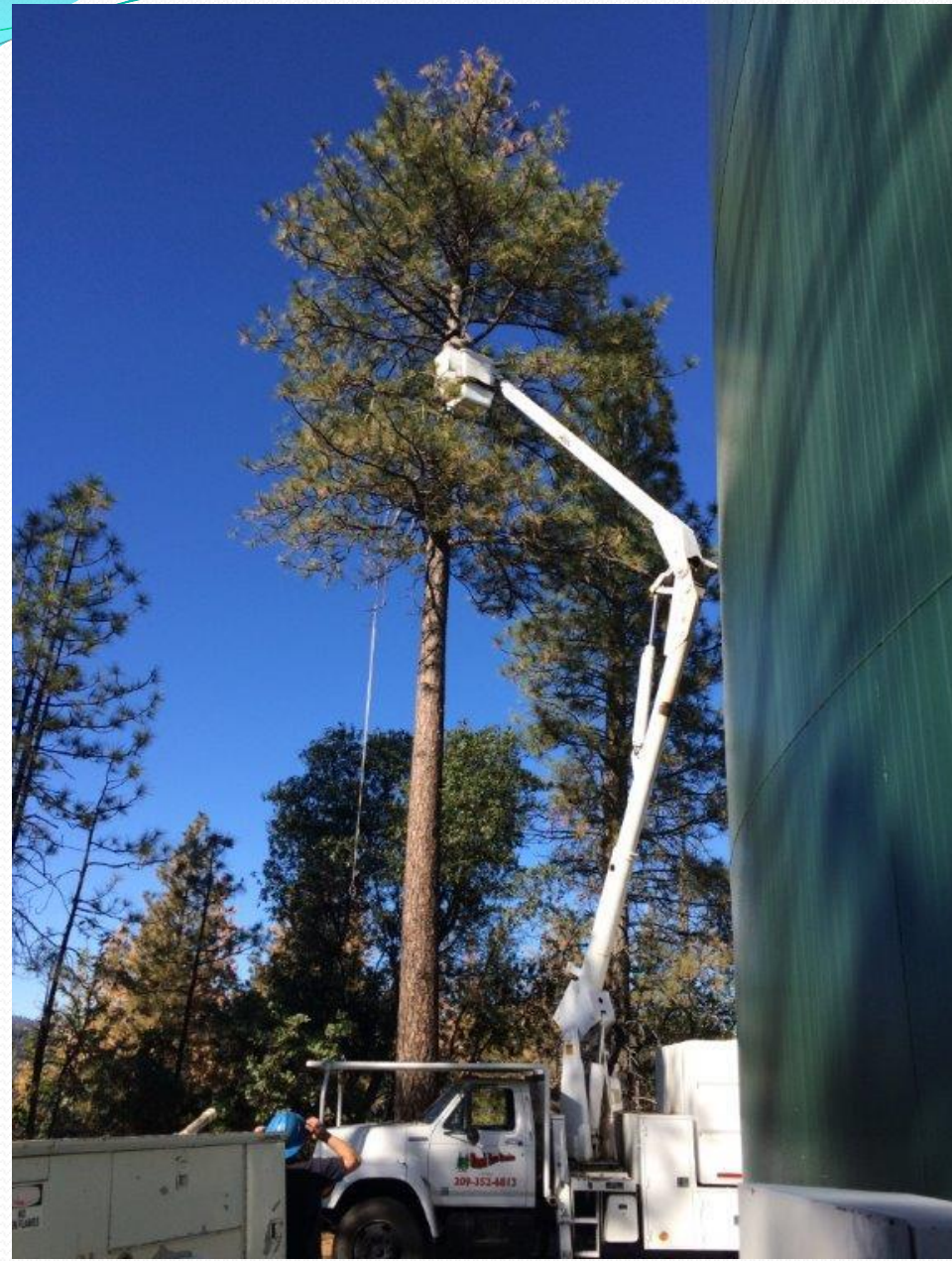




**Zone 2 Tank Site,  
Twain Harte**  
(Tree snapped in  
wind storm prior to  
start of project)

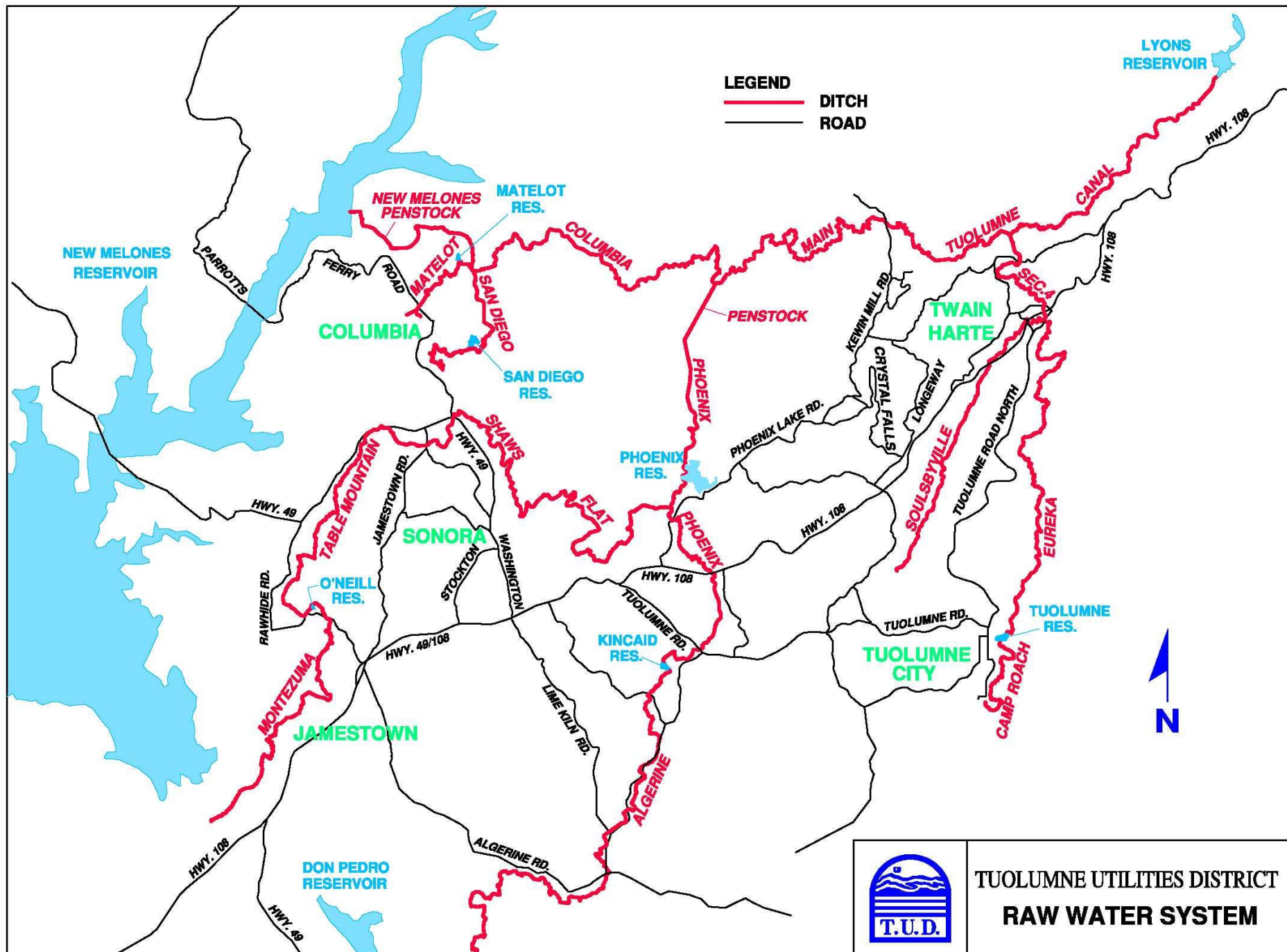


# Tree Removal – Skyline Tank, Ponderosa Hills



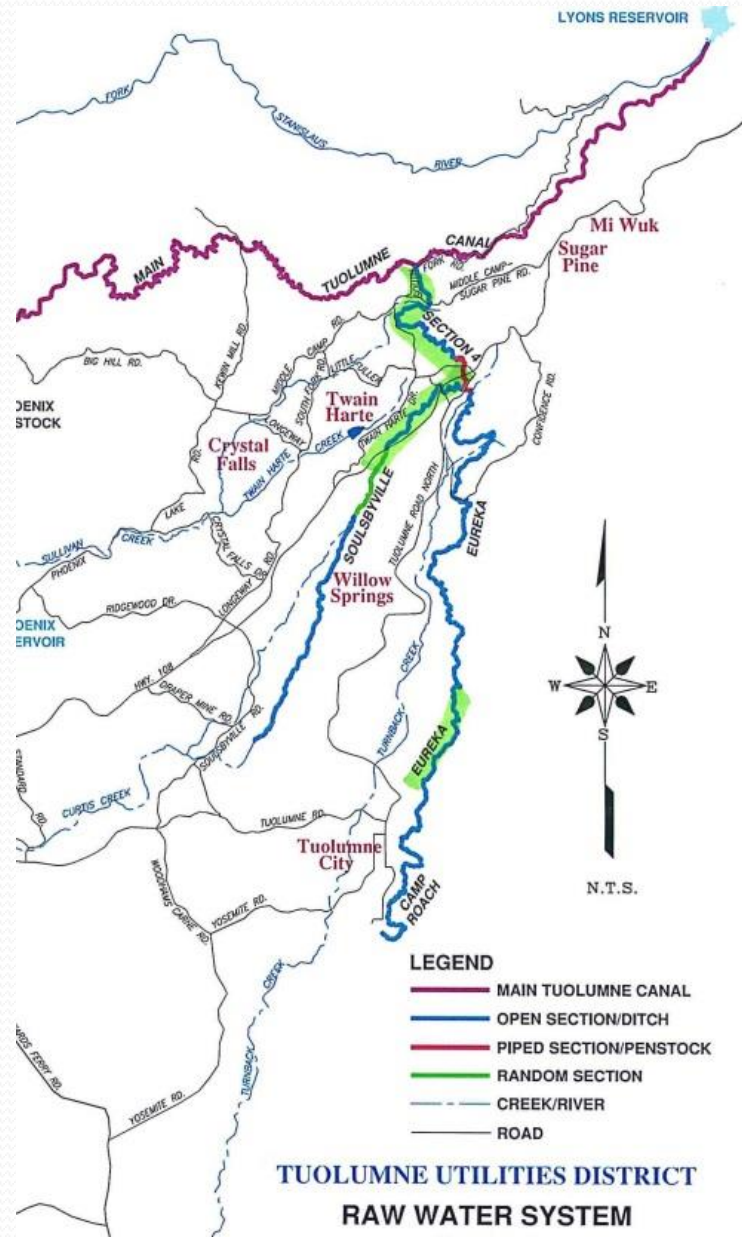






**TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT  
RAW WATER SYSTEM**

# Upcoming Project Areas





The ditches are vulnerable to trees falling









# Next TUD Hazardous Tree Removal Projects

- Section 4 Ditch – Twain Harte area:  
The removal of approximately 200 hazardous trees
- Eureka Ditch – Funding from the Tuolumne County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), \$20,000
- Upper Soulsbyville Ditch area – 657 previously identified by arborist for removal – could be estimated now at over 1,000 trees















# Questions – Thank you!

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